

AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 04, 2014
St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY

Members present: Pat De Leo, Elaine Hofstetter, Mary Lou Davis, Diane Jablonski, Jeanette Cantwell, Betty Harrel, Maria DeWald, Susie Blecker, Barbara Lemberger, Barbara Van Itallie, Cathy Kinn, Kay Saderholm, Christie Van Horne, Marcine Humphrey, Linda Roberts, Eileen Hayden, Kathy Friedman. Guest: Pat Luczai

The Meeting was called to order by Barbara Van Itallie at 7:00 pm.

Barbara welcomed and introduced new board member Elaine Hofstetter, College Liaison.

The minutes were approved for the June 5 Board Meeting and the Business Meeting of the June 5 Membership meeting.

Reports of Officers:

President's Report

Barbara suggested that we would ask for two volunteers to provide refreshments at each board meeting.

Longtime member Joan Fay has passed away, and there will be a remembrance ceremony at Woodland Pond on October 11.

We are developing a "Rack Card." This is a sheet that we can hand out to guests at meetings or events to let people know what AAUW is all about. It was suggested that we need to include our full name, American Association of University Women, along with the Acronym AAUW.

Sheila Zweifler is looking into places where we can hold our Annual Meeting. The consensus was that we should keep the cost to \$45 or less.

Treasurer's Report

Diane Jablonski reported that we have \$26,425.18 in our checking and \$45,930.86 in total assets.

There is a new claim form on the website. Diane will be away for most of October, so if you have claims, please send them in by the end of September.

Membership Vice President

Kay Saderholm reported that the Open House will be similar to last year in set up, with tables for the interest groups and initiatives. The person in charge of a table will be given an envelope on which she will fill out her address. Kay will use the envelopes to send back the lists of people who signed up for those groups.

Kay has called all the members that did not renew this spring. Half of them have now renewed.

Barbara Van Itallie asks that board members make an effort to greet new people at the open house and make them feel comfortable. New guests and members will have white name tags. Barbara also plans to call all new members.

Kay reports that the New Member Reception will be held on October 9. She will have invitations available at the open house to give to the new members.

It was noted that there was too much food last year. We will try to have a more accurate estimate of the numbers attending and how much they will eat. Board Members will provide deserts. There will be a sign-up at the next Board Meeting.

Membership Treasurer's Report

Jeanette Cantwell reports that we have 420 members in our Branch. We are the largest branch in the state and one of the top in the nation. At this time, 56 members have not renewed. 28 of those are definitely not renewing and 28 just have not contacted us. 14 new members have joined this spring, as opposed to 30 who joined in the spring of 2013. We hope to make up some of that loss at the open house.

Cathy Kinn moved that the list of non-renewals be sent out to interest group leaders on or about September 30, so they can take those names off their lists. Cathy will ask Jeanette for the list at that time and forward it to the group leaders. The motion passed.

Program Vice Presidents

Susie Blecker reported that the program committee meetings are on the second Thursday, at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church and are open to all who are interested.

The following programs are scheduled:

October 9 – New members' reception. Our guest will be Mariel Fiori, editor of *La Voz*, the Spanish language magazine.

November 13 – *Leading to Reading* Showcase. The Rural Migrant Ministries Summer Program.

December 12 – Activity Night. We need volunteers to lead activities (a dance, craft, etc.)

More volunteers are needed to help with programs for the rest of the year.

Community Liaison

Maria DeWald reported that she plans to help market our initiatives by having one initiative leader speak at each general membership meeting. She also plans to have a "Help Wanted" column in the Newsletter to ask for volunteers. Initiative leaders are to send their specific needs for volunteers to Maria.

Interest Group Coordinator

Cathy Kinn reported that there are 19 interest groups at this time. Peggy Hanson has proposed a new interest group: Poetry & Play Readings. It will include read aloud and discussion. **Cathy Kinn moved that we approve the Poetry & Play interest group. The motion passed.**

Newsletter/Website

Barbara Van Itallie read from Margaret Nijhuis' written report. The website has had a facelift in order to keep it in step with the national website's colors and logo. Please check out the site and let Margaret know if there are any changes or updates you want.

Due to Margaret's travel plans the deadline for the November Newsletter is October 1. Anything that comes in after that date will be put in the December newsletter.

The Membership Booklet for new members has been printed and the Membership Directory will be printed in November.

Reports of Special Committees

Girl's Conference

Cecilia Dinio-Durkin sent in a written report. The Conference will be held at Dutchess Community College on November 1 and will be hosted by students from the Early Childhood program. Registration has been reduced to \$5, to encourage more participation. Our Community Partners include Grace Smith House, Planned Parenthood, Family Services, Girl Scouts, United Way and the Vassar/Haiti Project.

Volunteers are needed for the following jobs: school liaisons, supervisors for the activities at the booths, experienced instructors to lead Girl Talk Circles, and people to put up signs in our area. Also needed are donations of travel size soap, shampoo, toothbrushes for the girls to pack in Puberty Packs that Planned Parenthood gives out.

Please contact Cecilia directly at womensworkbw@yahoo.com for more information, or to volunteer or donate items.

Publicity

Betty Harrel reported that our Facebook page is up and running. We would like to get more people to write articles about AAUW for the media sources such as Poughkeepsie Journal, Southern/Northern Dutchess News, facebook, radio PSA's. If anyone has written an article please send it to Betty, rather than submitting it to the publication directly.

Tea/Auction

Linda Roberts reported that the auction has been done for 5 years and some changes are going to be put in effect. The date has been put back to the end of April and the food will change, as members have requested a menu lower in carbohydrates. More volunteers are needed to help the auction run smoothly. Linda plans to write an article for the Newsletter every month, telling of specific jobs that volunteers are needed for, and giving members ideas about what kind of donations will be good sellers at the auction. We are hoping to get good participation from the interest groups.

Irene Keyes Memorial Scholarship

Marcine Humphrey reported there is \$1900 in the fund, which provides an annual scholarship to a student to attend the NCCWSL conference (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). The 2014 recipient was Laureen Scianimanico and the committee will soon be choosing next year's recipient. We are looking for one more committee member.

New Business

Fund Raising Bucket

We were presented with a bucket to use for collecting donations for the six main AAUW national funds. The idea is to pass it around at each of our functions for members to donate spare change or dollars. The consensus was that we do not want to do this because we have committed to having only one large fundraiser a year, it is too much work for our treasure, and we probably would not collect enough money to make it worthwhile.

Member Involvement Survey

Barbara collected data on the involvement of our members from lists from interest groups, volunteers, board and committee members, etc. She suggested we talk about membership recruitment and retention. There were various suggestions for improving involvement: Try to ask a new member to volunteer for an activity, along with your old friends; Ask an interest group leader to ask a member of her group to volunteer: Ask someone to co-chair with you.

Announcements

Pat Luczai announced that The Woman of the Year Luncheon will be held Saturday, October 25, noon, at the Ship Lantern Inn. We will be honoring Maureen Taylor, Habitat for Humanity volunteer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47

Respectfully Submitted

Katherine Friedman
Secretary

